

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

February 11, 2003

5:30 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta, Osborne, Garrity, Forest

Messrs: Sgt. Kinney, T. Lolicata, S. Tipping, J. Lavallee, Y. Charpentier,
K. Sheppard, R. Comstock

TABLED ITEM

Petition from residents of Kennard Road requesting that on-street parking on the north side of Kennard Road be reinstated.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we did send a notification to area residents to let them know that this was going to be discussed tonight and there may be some residents of the area here. The Police Department did submit a report, which is enclosed and Sgt. Kinney is here and Mr. Lolicata is here.

Chairman Sysyn stated Alderman Gatsas is here also. Did you see the police report?

Alderman Gatsas replied yes I did.

Alderman Forest stated I believe the Police Department has a recommendation. They went and did a study down there.

Sgt. Kinney stated yes we did and the Police Department's recommendation at this point due to the dimensions of the road and the environmental concerns with the hill is to leave it as it is presently posted. If you saw the report you can see that the road being about 24' wide without any snow on the side of the road would make it difficult to have a vehicle parked on the side of the road and vehicles traveling in opposite directions at that same point in the road. The report has the basic dimensions of the average vehicle and the average travel lane, which is about

12' wide. The vehicles we drive, the Ford Crown Victorias, are about 6 ½' in width so that is 13' right there. So you have two vehicles of that size taking up 24' of the road not taking into account the distance between the vehicles and the edge of the curb of the road.

Alderman Gatsas stated Tom I think you and I went up there and looked at it. Is there any way we can move the no parking...I think we had talked about possibly moving them to the side of the second driveway. Right now they go right up to Lindahl. I don't know if that is the 250'. I am not looking to change anything from the report and the recommendation that the officer gave. I don't know if that is the full 250'. Does the full 250' go to Lindahl or is it shy of that?

Sgt. Kinney replied I am not sure. I don't know if it is in the report and I did not take that measurement.

Mr. Lolicata stated I agree though. I would like to take it away from Lindahl. The concern of the Police and myself was the hill itself, the crest of the hill. Anything that is straightaway, they can get away with it. They can see ahead in advance but with the measurements given I would have to say the hill is going to be covered and for liability purposes I would have to agree with the hill and both sides. Anything besides that, as long as you can see straight ahead, I can see them...you know they can see a car in advance but when they come on the East side of that hill that is the part they are worried about and we are also.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess I would just defer to the officer. I don't know who measured and what the measurement was and whether that was inclusive or exclusive of that area.

Sgt. Kinney replied the 250', that being the shortest distance, it depends because the vehicles would move...that site distance varies depending on where you are picked up. If you and I were traveling in opposite directions, if I am closer to the crest of the hill at 250' you may be all the way back towards Smyth Road so I am not sure what the exact distance is and that is something we can work on with the Traffic Department.

Alderman Garrity stated I have a question for Alderman Gatsas or Frank Thomas but he is not here. Has that road been paved recently or is it due for reconstruction or paving in the near future?

Alderman Gatsas replied there is a sidewalk...I believe it is an oversized sidewalk, is it a 10' sidewalk, normally they are 8'...

Mr. Lolicata interjected the sidewalk doesn't go all the way through. I believe it stops, too, doesn't it. It stops.

Alderman Garrity stated I am just curious if the road in the future will quality for road reconstruction funds or anything of that nature so we could possibly widen the road and put the parking in at that time.

Alderman Gatsas responded you only have one side you can widen on because if you start widening on the side that the sidewalk is on you are going to be taking somebody's front steps.

Alderman Garrity asked is the sidewalk on the North side.

Alderman Gatsas answered I would say you want to widen the East side...well no that street goes at an angle so I think it is the North side.

Alderman Garrity asked so the sidewalk is on the North side.

Alderman Gatsas answered no it is on the South side.

Chairman Sysyn asked is there any neighbor here who wants to comment.

Mr. Stephen Tipping, 111 Kennard Road stated after reviewing the Police report I don't find it completely accurate. I am a little concerned that this report was done on a 30 MPH and the speed limit on our road is 25 MPH. I reworked all of the numbers and it makes quite a bit of difference. At 30 MPH I still think it is feasible to have people park on the road and still slow down based on the 30 MPH numbers but on 25 MPH if you want to refer to the paragraph in the report it says on 30 MPH, which is 88' per second and if that was 25 MPH that makes the cars traveling only 73 ½' per second. Really the bottom line is that each driver would eat up 70' in that time, that 1.6 seconds of reaction time. If they were going 25 MPH that would only be 59' in that time. We are elongating the distance if people were going 25 MPH and as I am sure you can contest, our road is kind of like Daytona especially now that there is no parking in the street. I believe a few months prior to the No Parking signs being put up there was an accident on the road with two teenagers who, I would say, were traveling in excess of 60 MPH on the road, came over the crest of the hill, saw the car parked on the side of the road, swerved and went up on people's property and missed somebody's front porch by feet. I don't know what action was taken. It just seems the real thing here is to either reduce the speed limit, patrol our road because as you have noticed Kennard Road is a cut through between Smyth and Mammoth. It is the same people who travel it every day. They know that it is a cut through and everyone, I would say 50% of the drivers are doing in excess of 35 MPH, 40 MPH, or 45 MPH on that

road. It seems like if we cut down on the speeding on that road maybe that will allow parking for people. I am a homeowner. I entertain. I can't fit more than three or four cars in my driveway. We own two so that leaves us one or two cars. Where are my people supposed to park? Am I not supposed to entertain? I live in Manchester.

Mr. Lolicata stated what we are trying to do here because of what resulted in the complaints is the crest of the hill itself, beyond that you have a lot of room to park a car. Everybody does. On the straight of way. The only reason we are here tonight is for liability on the crest of that hill. We are going to go back there. I would like to take some parking out on the straight of way but I want the hill covered because you just said it yourself. If they are going 35 MPH or 40 MPH and they are coming over that hill, somebody is going to meet and if somebody is parked there, that is where liability comes in. That is what we are here for. I will give you all the room for parking that we possibly can and if I have to take some out in the straight of way so be it. As long as we can see but the hill shall be covered. That is the extent of what they are trying to say here.

Mr. Tipping asked so where are you proposing to take the No Parking signs down.

Mr. Lolicata replied if it goes 100' or 50' beyond where I can see and we have a car parked there and I can see that I can take some away. I am going to be very, very truthful about this, if I can't see a car and we are going to try at both ends with cars parked there, where that limitation is is where you are going to see some No Parking signs.

Mr. Tipping asked and will the 25 MPH be considered instead of 30 MPH.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is 30 MPH in the whole City.

Mr. Tipping stated no when you turn in from Smyth Road it is 25 MPH and when you come in off of Mammoth Road it is 25 MPH.

Mr. Lolicata replied it must be 24' or under. That is probably why it is posted 25 MPH. So no matter how you look at it, it is cut down for you already. The minimum speed in the State is 25 MPH so you have it right now.

Mr. Tipping stated but I was just stating that with the numbers they make it look like it is a short distance but if you use 25 MPH you really have increased your distance.

Mr. Lolicata responded they are showing you that as an example. This footage comes out from the State Troopers. This is an example for you. If you are posted

25 MPH then you are all set. You can't go any lower. That is the minimum in the City. We will do something but the crest on the hill is going to be covered. That is all I am saying. That is what Sgt. Kinney is saying liability wise.

Mr. Tipping stated I am not saying there shouldn't be No Parking in some areas on the road but aren't there other options that we can pursue. I know the City of Nashua says that residents can't park on the road if they have a driveway but if they have guests and by running plates you would know their address...

Chairman Sysyn interjected we do have resident parking but we have it in the City where there are parking meters and people live in apartment houses. We do not have it in areas like your neighborhood.

Mr. Tipping stated I guess what I am proposing is I can only fix X number of cars in my driveway and I have a guest over for the night and they can't fit in my driveway, they can park in the road and if Manchester Police ran the plate number and it came up Lawrence, MA they would know they are a guest. I think sometimes cutting down on residents parking in the road is...

Chairman Sysyn interjected what they are trying to do is put parking on the street only on the straightaway, not on the crest of the hill. That is what I think. I think there is another neighbor here who would like to speak on this issue.

Mr. Tipping asked you are looking to take the No Parking on the crest and not just the straight of way, correct.

Mr. Lolicata answered we are going to make you walk a little longer. If you are right at the crest you are going to walk a little ways. That hill has to be covered.

Mr. Tipping asked by No Parking you mean.

Mr. Lolicata answered that is correct but there will be spaces open for you and your guest and everybody else to park.

Mr. Tipping asked would that be East of Lindahl or will you try to push is West of Lindahl Street.

Mr. Lolicata answered I will try to push it both ways. One side of the hill will be all the way to Smyth Road, though, on the other side. We will look at both sides.

Mr. Joe Lavalley, 79 Kennard Road stated I live right at the crest of the hill. It was my car that the fool missed when he went up onto the sidewalk. I concede the fact that the road is narrow. When they put in the sidewalk six years ago that was

our concern then and the City said well we need an 8' sidewalk because we have to access the sidewalk plow and all of that when we only wanted a 6' sidewalk. I concede the fact that the road is narrow. The problem that seems to be overshadowed here is the speed factor. What is the problem with turning Kennard Road into a one-way street heading East. That takes away the liability and the probability of oncoming cars. If they want to speed, let them speed in one direction. The problem is that we are now becoming a neighborhood that is having people with children move in. In the last three years we have had three or four families move in. They have young children and speed is a factor. If people are going to be meeting and oncoming car then the crest and the knoll have nothing to do with it, speed is the factor. That is what I am concerned with – speed. I conceded why don't we just make the street one-way? Then we take that whole problem...

Chairman Sysyn interjected they would be speeding even more, I think, on a one-way.

Mr. Lavallee stated if you make it one-way heading from McIntyre to Mammoth Road and you allow parking on one side, you still have one full lane of traffic. I sit there and I watch. The City school buses don't even obey the 25 MPH speed limit. I mean my solution is making the street one-way and allow parking on one side. Speeding, whether or not it is a straightaway or one-way, they speed on that street regardless because it is a shortcut.

Alderman Osborne stated Tom I think the main reason that sidewalk was put there in the first place was I remember I used to have some friends of mine that lived at 222 Kennard Road. I know there are a lot of kids that come down that way back and forth from school. How long has that sidewalk been there?

Mr. Lolicata answered about four or five years.

Alderman Osborne stated I think that was the main purpose of that sidewalk because there were a lot of kids that used to walk in the street and I think that is a good thing to have there. Has a study ever been made on making that a one-way?

Mr. Lolicata replied this is the first time that somebody has brought it up. We talked about it the first time we were down there. First of all, we are not even talking about a legal street here. It is not even 30' wide. The corresponding street would be Dave Street and you would have to make the other one a one-way the other way.

Alderman Osborne responded so coming down on Mammoth Road they would take a left on Kennard and until they got to Dave Street...no what is the other street that swings in back of...

Mr. Lolicata interjected Dave Street.

Alderman Osborne stated they come across there and then they would have to come back down Smyth Road and then come back up that way. Is that what the fellow had in mind?

Mr. Lolicata replied we have to take into consideration that it is a residential area on Dave Street and you have to factor in the McIntyre Ski Area and which way you want to go for a one-way.

Alderman Osborne asked would it be worthwhile to take a study on it and get a petition from the people in that area to see what they think about it.

Mr. Lolicata answered if you haven't got a 30' street and you want parking on one side on a one-way, I would have to think heavily on that one because you are not even working with a legal street to begin with.

Alderman Osborne stated it is better to have one way then two ways if it is not even legal the way it is.

Mr. Lolicata replied when I saw legal I am talking about when you make measurements, when you make No Parking they go with 24', 30' and 36' in the manual. I am talking about a street that has at least a width of 18' or more or 20' or more without parking. I am talking about safety. I am talking about lane use. These are all in the book. When you start talking about taking parking away if you are not going to go by the book then we have to start using the measurements of the street.

Alderman Osborne asked what is the sidewalk width right now.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is 8'.

Alderman Osborne replied it is wide enough.

Alderman Gatsas stated it is too wide.

Mr. Lavallee stated I can see that widening the road is not an option because when they put the sidewalk in they told us that if there was going to be any widening of the street it would be on the North section of Kennard and the problem is that is

where the hill is and they would have to cut into those hills and the City would have to build walls again and move utilities so widening the street...we are not looking at that because that is not a financial feasibility.

Alderman Osborne stated I think the problem too, thinking about Dave Street, if we make that a one-way then Dave Street would take the brunt of the traffic cutting over from Mammoth Road so it is a Catch-22

Mr. Lavallee replied well they get just as much as we do at this point in time but I don't know what their...

Alderman Osborne stated but you would be driving it all that way from Mammoth Road is what I am saying so it is a tough situation.

Alderman Gatsas stated, Tom, when you say that 19' is not a recognized street what would be the problem with making that a one-way. If it is not a recognized street for width size why couldn't we make it a one-way with parking on one side?

Mr. Lolicata replied you could do that. Don't get me wrong.

Alderman Gatsas responded well you said you would weigh in on that and I guess I need you to explain to me why you would weigh in or be in opposition to that.

Mr. Lolicata stated because we have to take into consideration what is on that street. The other street is all residential. The McIntyre area. Those are all things that weigh into which way you want it to be a one-way if you do it. If there is parking on one side you have to weigh in what way you are going to go with it – North or South and then you have to see what it is going to do to the other area, which is completely residential above them also on Dave Street, which is very heavy also now.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am not talking about doing anything with Dave Street. I don't know why you would have to change that.

Mr. Lolicata replied well in most cases when you make a one-way street they like a corresponding street going the other way for traffic flow. If you are going to make one street one-way Northbound, they like to make another street parallel with it the other way to keep traffic flowing. That is the way that most people do it when they do a one-way street. If you are going to go with this one-way on one street you might add on even more to the other one. That is a possibility. It has to be studied. It has to be looked at.

Alderman Gatsas asked are there no streets in the City that are just one-way without a corresponding one-way going the other way.

Mr. Lolicata answered there are some. If you want us to look into that, we will do it. If you get all of the residents to back it up and go along with this, fine. The only thing I am going to worry about is parking and how it affects McIntyre.

Alderman Gatsas stated now there was a reason because I brought this forward to someone and they said it couldn't be done...that was talked about four or five months ago.

Mr. Lolicata replied it was because of No Parking or parking on both sides of the street with 19'. If you are going to do it, you will have enough room but have parking on one side. If you are going to make it a one-way it is possible. You have 19' but to have parking on both sides, no. There is no option in other words. That is what it comes down to.

Alderman Gatsas responded well that would make sense that you would have parking on one side and not the other if you are going to have it a one-way.

Mr. Lolicata replied exactly because of the width.

Alderman Osborne stated again making Kennard Road a one-way would do no justice to Dave Street because like I said before if you make Kennard a one-way heading East then everything going the other way is going to go down Dave Street, which would make it cumbersome for the people on that street. Then we would have a problem on Dave Street like we have now on Kennard Road. I think it is going to be tough. I would like to see it a one-way if it just equaled out but the way I see it and I know the area pretty well, I don't think it would work for the people on Dave Street. They would be upset with that because it is residential also and there are a lot of kids on that street as well. Let me ask this one other question – 20 MPH school zone signs how far do they have to be from the school? The Smyth Road School there, is that too far away? Is it possible to put 20 MPH there?

Mr. Lolicata answered most schools are two, two and half or three blocks.

Alderman Osborne asked is it possible to look into that and see if you can put 20 MPH there if you are heading down Kennard Road from Mammoth Road to slow the speed down.

Mr. Lolicata answered you would have to put school zone 20 MPH and you could put advisory down there but you would have to make it a school zone and it has to be black and white.

Alderman Osborne stated there are a lot of kids that walk down Kennard Road. I remember that.

Mr. Lolicata responded you could probably do it. You are close enough for Smyth School. You are right next door to it actually.

Alderman Osborne stated I think that would be the first step. That is going to help somewhat until we decide what is going to happen here.

Mr. Lolicata replied to legally drop it five more miles you would have to make it a school zone.

Alderman Osborne responded exactly.

Mr. Lolicata stated that could be done.

Chairman Sysyn asked is anybody taking the recommendation of the Police Department into consideration.

Alderman Forest replied that is why I asked the Sergeant here to make a presentation because they did have a recommendation.

Chairman Sysyn asked does anybody want to follow that recommendation or do you want to keep this tabled.

Alderman Osborne moved to table the item.

Alderman Gatsas asked how about if we at least allow them to go in and see where that 250' is. If it is at least at Lindahl we can move those signs down somewhat. You can leave it on the table so we can keep discussing it but if we can put some relief in.

Chairman Sysyn replied that is what I am asking. If we follow the recommendation of the Police Department and you want to come in with something further later than do that but for the time being...

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected if I understand the discussion that has occurred and I think it basically follows the discussion I had with Lt. Valenti earlier this week, I think that you could direct the Traffic Director and Police Department to

go back and based on the report see if they can open up some parking on opposite sides. I know they were talking about travel lanes and so forth and that is what they were going to go out and do, I thought, before this meeting but I guess I misunderstood the Lieutenant at the time. If you want to direct them to do that and table it until that report comes back at your next meeting that probably would be the better motion.

Chairman Sysyn asked would they be allowed to work on the parking.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied once they come back with that...I mean Tom obviously can give us the information and we could poll the Committee and establish the parking as soon as possible if you want. Rather than tabling it you can just direct him to do that and give the information to the Clerk and that might expedite things.

Alderman Forest moved to create parking on Kennard Road and report back to the Clerk with that information so that the Committee can be polled. Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Lolicata asked am I to understand that you still want to make this a school zone. That is possible. I can drop the speed to 20 MPH School Zone.

Alderman Osborne answered definitely.

Alderman Gatsas stated if 20 MPH signs are going to slow traffic down on that street that says school zone then we ought to put them up on every street in the City. If that slows it down then we should find a way to pay for it to get it done if that is going to slow traffic down. I don't believe that a sign that says 20 MPH School Zone is going to slow the traffic down.

Mr. Lolicata replied well it is a school zone and if they want a 20 MPH school zone it can be done.

Alderman Gatsas responded I agree. I am just saying that I don't think that is going to slow down the cars.

Alderman Osborne stated you can put some of those big yellow Slow signs, too. I did a good job on Lake Avenue. I know a little bit about streets. It works real well. It will kind of narrow down the situation a little bit that's all.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote on the motion to create parking on Kennard Road and report the information back to the Clerk to poll the Committee. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

On motion of Alderman Guinta, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to direct Tom Lolicata to look into changing the speed limit to 20 mph and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Communication from Alderman Lopez recommending consideration of a two-tier fee structure for the parking garages.

Alderman Guinta moved the item for discussion. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez stated I bring this to the attention of the Committee because I do know that there has been some discussion of going to \$75 with the garage and with the budget season coming up I can foresee that. All I am asking the Committee to do is take a good look at this for the residents of the citizens of Manchester and see whether there is any benefit of having \$60 for residents of Manchester since they pay the burden of taxes and all of the necessary maintenance on the garages. I think if I were to have any recommendation at this time it would be...I have spoken to the Traffic Director and I will let him speak for himself regarding this idea coming before the Committee. I think there needs to be some type of complete analysis of all of the parking in the City. For example, although it is not in the report a study could be made...if I go and get a 10-hour tag for example in the City of Manchester I pay \$31. That is on street parking for \$1.55/day. If I park at the garage it is \$3.00. If I park in another parking place it is \$36 at one parking lot and \$41 at another parking lot. I am just saying that there are a lot of benefits here that the City of Manchester residents are paying to subsidize other people and maybe if I had any recommendation it would be to do a complete study as we go through the budget process here before we make any decision to go to \$75 just across the board on the parking for everybody. With that, I would ask the Director if he would like to comment in reference to my correspondence.

Mr. Lolicata stated we just had a fee structure and we just went up on everybody. Of course, most ordinances are done that way. In this case it would have to be a two-tier because you have to have one or the other. They do have them for hunting and fishing licenses, etc. You have a resident rate and a non-resident rate. I don't know how much is involved. I am trying to get that information now from the garages. I don't know if you have 150 non-resident and 20 residents or vice-versa. I really don't know. I would like to get some information to see how many people in Manchester are utilizing it and paying a lease. This does not mean the businesses now. I am talking about individuals. I am not talking dailies. We are

talking strictly leases here. I would like to get a handle on it myself and get some information to find out how many are residential and non-residential and come back to you and take a look at this. It is something that you don't have to throw out. It is another idea. It has already been in use for years for the State and other towns. It is not anything new. It is just a matter of how much and the structure itself. I have no information at this time. I couldn't give you that right now. I am hoping to get it for you.

Alderman Guinta asked do you have an idea of how many municipalities utilize this two tier system for parking or is that something that you could look into.

Mr. Lolicata answered I could look into it. Portsmouth has a 24-hour, \$100/night and \$75 or \$50 in the day but it doesn't have residential and non-residential. That I would have to go and find out. I have about eight cities our size that I could call. I don't know for sure, Alderman.

Alderman Guinta replied so this proposal is suggesting that if you live in Bow or Candia or Portsmouth and you work in Manchester and you are an individual and you want to buy a monthly pass you would pay \$75 as opposed to the \$60.

Mr. Lolicata responded correct.

Alderman Guinta stated I don't like it.

Chairman Sysyn stated I don't either.

Alderman Forest stated the concern I have is there are a lot of businesses downtown that pay for their employees whether they are from Manchester or not.

Mr. Lolicata replied they wouldn't be affected. If it is a company, it is not affected. I believe the Alderman stated residents only.

Alderman Forest asked how would you find out. You would have to find out.

Mr. Lolicata responded that is what I am getting out. I would like to go into the computer. Say McLane law firm has 50 or 60. He pays for all of them. They would not be affected. The person could live in Bedford, Amherst or Manchester. It is the single ones that he is referring to.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that is not what is in the letter. The letter includes anybody that has a businesses that is being billed would be billed as a non-resident. Alderman Lopez could speak to it but that is the way it is worded in the communication so I just want to clarify it.

Alderman Guinta stated it says “non-residents could be defined as businesses regardless of address and any individuals residing outside of the City.”

Mr. Lolicata asked is that referring to a single person or a business.

Chairman Sysyn answered both.

Alderman Lopez stated I think the conversation is correct. I am not talking about business...the letter on the part of the businesses is a mistake. I agree with the Traffic Director that businesses who get X number of parking spaces for their employees should not be affected because they are doing business in the City of Manchester.

Alderman Guinta asked if a business is doing business in the City of Manchester and they buy X number of monthly parking spaces...let me use myself or a downtown merchant for example who...I have several in Ward 3 who reside outside of Manchester who are small business owners and say they have five employees and they each pay monthly. I don't want to use anyone specifically. I can talk to you about that privately but a small business with four or five people who all reside outside of Manchester and all pay their monthly parking fee, those people would be affected. Now I have a concern with that because you are hitting the small business owner and the individual who comes in to work for that small business owner. Secondly, if I have a small business to get around this is what I would do as the owner of a company I would buy monthly passes at the \$60 rate, give them to my employees and then have them pay me the \$60. There is a way around this.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with you and maybe that is the intent. Since our garages are only 50% filled at any given time maybe the businesses will buy more passes for their employees and give them a better discount and the garages might get up to 75% thereby making more money.

Alderman Guinta replied I don't know that a business...if I employ five people and those five people each buy a pass and then they are hiked up to \$75 they are going to complain to me as the business owner so what I am going to do in response to that is I will say the end around is I will buy them at \$60 and I will give you each one pass. So you are losing five residential purchases and you are gaining five business purchases so you are not adding any cars to a garage. I think I respectfully disagree with the premise but I also see there are ways around it. I can applaud you for trying to identify new streams of income to the City. The concern I have here is we seem to be discriminating against anybody who works in the City but happens to reside outside the City whether it is a small business...for

example Fusion. Remember they came in and they had a parking issue? Well, the employer said our employees have two or three jobs because of their income and they are either in a lot or they are moving their car from one space to another and feeding the meter. That person if they reside outside of Manchester gets hit and they can't afford...that type of employee can't afford it. I think this really hits the small business companies; the people who employ less than 10 or 15 people and don't have the capability to buy monthly passes for all of their employees. While I think it does increase potentially the revenue for the City I think we might be hurting the individual who really can't afford that type of increase.

Alderman Lopez stated you are absolutely right but the point is going to come where this Board is going to make a decision in the budget process and this is the main reason I brought this forward so that there could be a study of the whole process here. I know that there has been some conversation and it is going to go to \$75/month and it is going to hurt everybody. It is going to hurt businesses and it is going to hurt residents if we don't look at all of the avenues of what is happening in the City with parking. If we are only running at 49.6% in the garages...

Alderman Guinta interjected that is a problem I agree.

Alderman Lopez stated and we are given \$31 for a 10-hour meter in the City and it is costing me \$1.55/day why should I go to the garage. There has to be some mechanism and if anything I wanted to stimulate some thinking here as we go into the budget process as to what we are going to do before we just vote for \$75.

Alderman Guinta stated I appreciate that because we do need to identify new revenue sources. I think my position would be we just had an increase. I happened to be opposed to the increase but for different reasons. I was opposed to the increase because I think we need to address the problem through marketing and potentially changing management companies. That so far has not come to fruition and I think you and I have similar positions on that particular issue. What I prefer to do, given the fact that the increase just took effect...I would have no objection to doing some sort of study, however, I am not sure exactly what we would be studying here because I don't know that it is appropriate at this time to do a...how long has the current increase been in effect. A month?

Chairman Sysyn replied yes.

Alderman Guinta stated I would feel more comfortable at least for the time being keeping that increase in effect and if Tom wants to do a study to try and identify fair additional revenues sources I have no objection to that. I wouldn't want to go so far as to support this concept at this time.

Alderman Osborne stated I think the big problem here over the years and of course I am just an Alderman who came on board this year but I think the City, you know, waited too long to go up in small increments rather than all at once. Now we are caught with this big difference and it is costing the City quite a bit of money here every year. I think it is not fair to the people in Manchester who don't use the garages to have to pay for them. It is a tough situation here. Something has to be done. If we sell the garages they are going to go up. I am sure of that so we have to make up our minds here which way we are going.

Alderman Forest stated I agree with what Alderman Guinta said.

Alderman Garrity stated I think if we are going to talk about small increases in the garages we should be talking about it now because the budget process starts in June and if we want to increase the rates to the garages, if we do it every year we have to do it in January and that is six months of our fiscal year budget. At the next meeting, certainly in April we should be talking about an increase in the rates in the garages come January 2004. That way it can get worked into the fiscal budget in June.

Alderman Guinta stated I don't know if it would be appropriate to do one of two things or one of three things. Either table and ask Tom to do some research or receive and file and ask Tom to do some research. I don't know which one.

Chairman Sysyn replied if you are going to ask Tom to do something you probably have to table.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you could do it either way. The question would be what exactly are you asking him to research.

Alderman Guinta replied I don't know. I guess in a general sense...I am curious to know how many residents versus non-residents are utilizing the garages and how many individuals versus companies. Is that something that you can research?

Mr. Lolicata responded that is all I was asked to do for this two-tier thing is to try to find out how many were City residents. That is all I was asked so far.

Alderman Guinta stated I think that is good information for us to have regardless of what we do on this issue. Would it be appropriate for me to table this while he gets that information?

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the only other question that comes to my mind and maybe that is because I am an administrator but I can see some administrative nightmares in trying to put something forward. You might want to have him ask

or have somebody research the billing sections to see how that would be divided out if you get into the businesses because if you have to start breaking out employees in the businesses that could be a real nightmare and there was discussion to that effect.

Mr. Lolicata replied my recommendation would be single residents and I would not touch the businesses. That is how I would do it.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked so the businesses would be considered to be residents under the...you see you will have to do an amendment to the ordinance and I am trying to think how I am going to put this together for you. So businesses would be considered residents of the City as long as the business address was in the City?

Mr. Lolicata answered yes. There are too many businesses that pay for their employees.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated for individuals you would break out residents and non-residents.

Mr. Lolicata replied that is what I would do.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you might want to also then just find out, based on those numbers, what the difference is in billing or what the cost would be to break that out for the company that is doing it. That is what I am thinking.

Alderman Osborne asked how can we say fishing, hunting and boating – recreational as to ones livelihood. How can we separate saying well they do it this way and we can get residents and non-residents because they hunt, fish and so on but yet somebody wants to work in Manchester for their livelihood...how can we do this? It doesn't sound right. It is two different things. We are talking recreation and we are talking about ones livelihood.

Mr. Lolicata answered they are all probably livelihood. Some of them come in just to shop and I understand all of that. All I am going to do is find out for you how many are involved right now on this two-tier system that was brought up tonight. That is all I am going to do.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated so the motion would be to table pending further information from Mr. Lolicata and you are requesting that he get numbers on how many individuals versus companies and the number of individuals who are residents versus non-residents.

Alderman Guinta stated I would like to stress that we increase this to \$60 and while I am happy to have Tom do some additional research I would also feel better if we gave that increase some time to take effect and hopefully we could do some work in trying to deal with the management issue. I would be happy to work with Alderman Lopez on that issue.

Alderman Guinta moved to table the item pending further information from Mr. Lolicata. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Communication from the City Clerk requesting permission for the placement of the "City Hall Parking Only" sign in the Middle Street Lot on Friday, March 14, 2003 from 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM to accommodate City employees who will be attending the Members First Credit Union St. Patty's Day Employee Appreciation Coffee Social in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Alderman Garrity moved to approve the request. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Forest being duly recorded in opposition.

Communication from Yvonne Charpentier advising of the dangerous situation that exists on Raiche Hill Lane and requesting that the bottom of the hill be blocked off.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I believe there is a communication from the Highway Department regarding this as well.

Alderman Guinta moved the item for discussion. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Sysyn stated you all have the communication from the Highway Department and they are recommending not to close Raiche Hill Lane.

Alderman Forest stated I was there yesterday and I took some pictures myself. The back street that Mrs. Charpentier is referring to is that East-West back street that intersects the North-South back street by her garages. Her garages are actually right on the back street with no setback so if the plows go by or a car goes by it will probably hit her garage doors and that is what she is complaining about. The back street itself, from what I can see, and the recommendation of the Highway Department is that it can't be closed off because we would be landlocking some of these tenements up above. I know the Highway Department did make a recommendation and I think it is fairly good recommendation that

maybe Mrs. Charpentier put these...they call them bollards and actually they are cement columns or steel columns, which I don't think is that expensive for her to do and maybe if she is here we can show them to her and that may be an alternative.

Chairman Sysyn stated in their pictures it shows what it would look like after they are installed and that would stop people from hitting the garage, which they have done for years I guess. Mrs. Charpentier do you have those pictures?

Mrs. Yvonne Charpentier stated I see the columns but that is between the doors. Most of the damage is always done right at the doors, right in the center of the doors. A lot of children come down that hill with sleds and that is what happened during this last episode. Children sliding down with sleds, saucers and whatever and they hit the garages themselves and that is what buckles in there. Even when I have had cars hit there, they have come down the hill and hit the center of the garage. They don't hit the outside of that. The only time that happens is when the City trucks came down and knocked the whole foundation down at one time.

Alderman Guinta stated given the fact that closing the street landlocks certain buildings, would you have an alternative suggestion. We would like to help. The problem is that we can't legally close the street.

Mrs. Charpentier replied I know. That is what they keep telling me.

Alderman Guinta asked so is there an alternative other than the one that is suggested here because I can't think of one that the City could really implement.

Mrs. Charpentier answered I don't know unless that hill...something to curb it down at an angle and not have it come straight down the hill but have it slope over at a distance away gradually.

Alderman Guinta stated unfortunately I think that would involve eminent domain issues and we would start taking other people's property.

Mrs. Charpentier responded well I don't know. Even if they did block it at the bottom and dig it and make it even with the other cars that park in there they would have more parking in there. Block it down at the bottom. Something has to be done. A child is going to...that is in the summer time to when they come down with scooters and skateboards and whatever.

Alderman Guinta asked are they children from this particular neighborhood.

Mrs. Charpentier answered they come from Notre Dave Avenue and further. There are more children then there used to be. We never had this many.

Alderman Guinta asked so it is not necessarily neighborhood children.

Mrs. Charpentier answered yes I think it is a lot of them.

Alderman Guinta asked have you been able to talk to some of the neighbors about this.

Mrs. Charpentier answered no because I don't see...I am on Main Street and I don't see what is going on much in the back street unless I go to get my car and there are kids around. I know a few of them but I don't know all of them. Now my insurance is giving me problems. They are thinking of either tripling my rates or...this is ridiculous. Somebody has to pay. I didn't have the doors repaired. I had a friend that was able to board them up somewhat until spring. I said the first snow storm and this is what happens you know.

Alderman Guinta responded unfortunately what it sounds like is if this solution with the columns is not going to resolve the problem it sounds like if there is any personal damage done to your property the only other alternative would be to notify the Police Department and file a complaint. I don't know that there is anything else...

Mrs. Charpentier interjected I have done that. They come every time this happens but you don't know who did it. Nobody knows anything.

Alderman Forest stated unless you hire a policeman to be there 24 hours a day and it is kind of expensive on your part...the only alternative we can suggest is what the Highway Department has asked that we suggest to you.

Mrs. Charpentier replied I know they told me that they wished it was closed. I have called them up and they said we know just what you are talking about and we wish that would be closed. Some kid is going to get killed there. Honest to God.

Alderman Forest stated we can ask the Police Department to pay special attention to that area but that is about all we can do.

Mrs. Charpentier stated cars travel on that back street really fast and any car coming down that hill is an accident ready to happen. It really is.

Chairman Sysyn stated we could also ask the Police Department to put a special notice up there for people.

Alderman Guinta moved to request the Police Department to post a notice in that area.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated what I was referring to in my discussion with you, Madame Chair, was that the Police Department sometimes puts a special notice out to officers to pay attention to specific areas and that sort of thing and I am sure that if you requested Chief Driscoll to do that he would because of the liability to the children and to try to stop them from going down that area. You may be able to post something on the Park side. I don't know.

Chairman Sysyn stated and Mrs. Charpentier may want to look into those bollards to see if they will help somewhat.

Alderman Osborne asked, Mr. Sheppard, do you have any knowledge of this situation at all.

Mr. Sheppard answered yes I am familiar with that. I worked with Bruce Thomas in putting together that letter today.

Alderman Osborne asked when the plow goes down this alley does it go down to the dead end or does it come out the other way. Is that an L shape?

Mr. Sheppard answered it is connected to Notre Dame Avenue at the top and the alley down below.

Alderman Osborne asked which way does the plow go. Does it come down the hill?

Mr. Sheppard answered typically on hills the plows try to go up the hill. It depends on the operator at the time. Some times they may go down the hill also. We have had two incidences at that house and the City has actually paid two claims.

Alderman Osborne asked which way was the plow going when you paid the two claims.

Mr. Sheppard answered I don't know.

Alderman Osborne asked do you know, Mrs. Charpentier.

Mrs. Charpentier stated down the hill.

Alderman Osborne stated I think you would get more pressure coming down the hill then you would coming the other way and pushing the snow up the hill. It is kind of hard to get all of the drivers used to that because you change drivers and things of that sort but maybe it is some kind of an alternative on that route to put something on the dash stating so. It might help until something can be done.

Alderman Forest stated the garage itself sits with no setback so it really doesn't matter which way the plow goes.

Alderman Osborne replied I think the T where it comes off...what street did you say it comes off of.

Mr. Sheppard stated Notre Dame Avenue.

Alderman Osborne stated well it if is a plow coming over to go up the hill I think that extension there is probably a lot shorter than coming full blast down the hill. There is a long run there so you have a lot more snow going down then you would coming this way.

Mr. Sheppard replied some operators feel more comfortable coming down the hill. Like you said they can put pressure down on the blade while other operators prefer to go up the hill. Let me talk to the Superintendent.

Alderman Osborne asked how many years has this been happening. How long have you lived there?

Mrs. Charpentier answered 16 years.

Alderman Osborne asked and how many times has it happened in 16 years.

Mrs. Charpentier answered the garage has only been there for five years.

Alderman Osborne asked how many times has it happened in five years.

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected we are not picking up anything that Mrs. Charpentier is saying. I would also note that the CIP Committee is waiting because they were supposed to meet at 6:30 PM. It is my understanding that Alderman Guinta has made a motion to request Chief Driscoll to put a special notice out regarding the situation with the children and I would presume that he would also ask that the Highway Department address whatever they can with the plows.

Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion to request Chief Driscoll to put a special notice out regarding the situation with the children in that area and to have the Highway Department address the situation with the plows. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On Bedford St. west side, from a point 35 feet south of Pleasant St. to a point 22 feet south

Alderman Guinta

On Cedar St. north side, from a point 230 feet east of Beech St. to a point 20 feet east

Alderman Osborne

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE – ORD. 7258:

On Mulsey St. north side, from Bedford St. to a point 45 feet west

Alderman Guinta

RESCIND PARKING ¼ HOUR (8AM-6PM) – ORD 2980:

On Elm St. east side, from Myrtle St. to a point 42 feet north

Alderman Guinta

RESCIND PARKING ¼ HOUR (8AM-6PM) – ORD> 3419:

On Myrtle St. south side, from Elm St. to Church St.

Alderman Guinta

PARKING 1 HOUR (8AM-6PM):

On Elm St. east side, from Myrtle St. to a point 65 feet north

On Myrtle St. south side, from Elm to a point 55 feet east.

Alderman Guinta

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE (8AM-6PM):

On Myrtle St. south side, from a point 55 feet east of Elm to Church St.

Alderman Guinta

PARKING ¼ HOUR (8AM-9PM):

On Somerville St. north side, from a point 30 feet west of Cypress St. to a point 20 feet west

Alderman Shea

On motion of Alderman Guinta, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to accept the traffic agenda.

TABLED ITEM

8. Communication from Robin Comstock, requesting the City's input on how best to utilize the new Chamber logo on road signs, city vehicles, maps, etc.

On motion of Alderman Guinta, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Ms. Comstock stated I don't know if I am on a time limit but I need to make a public statement. I didn't know about the last meeting and I am so sorry. Had I known, I would have been early. I am here tonight to talk a little bit about the brand and the use of the brand. I have a template here or outline that suggests possible uses for you to consider whatever appropriate other Committee that also needs to engage in this discussion. We are asking for you to consider this the community logo as we talked about at an Aldermanic meeting at the Saint Mary's Credit Union Museum and we would like to come back to you and suggest...some recommendations for City use for example would be on the fingertip fax publication, the City website, on other City collateral including letterhead, business size envelopes, note cards, tag lines, using e-mail signatures, etc. We are very excited about the concept or possibility of waving flags above City Hall, the Verizon Wireless Arena, the Library, the Airport and other public or City buildings and also probably why this landed in your Committee, Madame Chair, is because we also propose another consideration which is to put the brand on the City vehicles. I know there has been some discussion about this anticipating the arrival of one or two new cars. We have also talked about road signs and again at the Manchester Airport, Verizon Wireless Arena, City Hall and the public library. Some current examples are on Chamber marketing materials. I brought for you and I can just give you this bag. For example we developed this bag that we use at the Welcome Center. You can see the logo displayed on this to help promote Manchester. We currently use the logo on our own newsletter. We are using it on our website and on our e-mail addresses. The new source book, which profiles the City of Manchester you can just see that logo pop down at the bottom of this magazine. I have brought a copy for each of the Committee members for this but I don't know if you have had a chance to see the new tri-fold that was created in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Intown Manchester and the City of Manchester. Jane Hill specifically worked very diligently on this and as you can see on the masthead we have used Manchester The Queen City Where History Invites Opportunity. We believe that the use of this logo in as many possible locations as we can will begin to generate some commonality, a community theme, a source of pride for the citizens of the City of Manchester and whatever

capacity that your Committee makes decisions about its usage, we hope that you will consider that. We are very anxious to talk with you further about it or have closer discussion with you in any format that you think is appropriate. Would you like me to hand you these documents for the Committee?

Chairman Sysyn replied yes.

Alderman Guinta stated thank you for coming, Robin. I am very much in support of this idea. I think that there probably are some concerns that need to be addressed, specifically the cost, the timetable, who would be responsible for implementing this whole process and my idea would be to try to get it done as quickly as possible but I know that some Aldermen have voiced some concerns, not with the overall idea but just some of the cost outlay. I don't know if it would be appropriate to...if we have that information now or if we could put a group together to research some of those ideas and then come back at the next meeting for some sort of...

Ms. Comstock interjected I do not have pricing but I would like to make one point of clarification because in discussion that I have had with some Aldermen too just to be clear this in no way is seeking to replace the City seal and I hear you understand that. It is to enhance our community identity. In terms of cost analysis, I really haven't conducted any.

Alderman Garrity stated Tom you probably have a pretty good idea of what the cost would be on the signs and things of that nature so could you come back with a report.

Mr. Lolicata answered that depends on locations, etc. We did this back in the 1960's throughout the whole City. We had Follow the Crown to Downtown back in the early 60's. The signs since then have changed. It depends on how big they want them, what color, etc. If I can talk with Robin and get a few things together I can give you an idea Citywide.

Alderman Garrity asked do we need to give a date as to when we would like a report back.

Mr. Lolicata stated let me talk to Robin for an hour or so to give me an idea of what she is looking for and I will have to come up with something for a number to work with. If we are talking signs for the City that doesn't include vehicles. That is another ballgame all together so we have to sit down and talk and get some information first.

Alderman Guinta stated we could always implement this in stages. If the cost is extensive in a difficult budget year we could certainly identify what would be the most appropriate places to start with and then make it an ongoing project. I am happy to assist in whatever meetings would be appropriate and I would like to move to approve this.

Ms. Comstock stated we have already made arrangements to put the brand in some of the bus stops. Although it gets somewhat cost prohibitive we are being very selective and rotating them. I think it can be affordable and Tom and I can certainly research that for you. Are you hoping that we would report back to your Committee then?

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated for the traffic signs you need to. That is the reason it was sent here I think because of the traffic signs and the vehicle issue.

Ms. Comstock asked for other elements of this campaign should we approach...

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected I think it might be something to be coordinated with the Mayor's Office because that is traditionally where some of that stuff comes from or perhaps with the Committee on Administration for some of the other items. We can work that with you if you want to stop by and see me.

Alderman Guinta asked if we wanted to continue promoting this...if local businesses wanted to start using this seal in their windows and things of that nature is that something that we can go forward with at this time. I guess a business entity could do whatever they want in their signage.

Ms. Comstock answered we are willing to make the brand and the graphic available to anyone who would like to use it. We have the specifications available in the office and we have been encouraging our members through our communication venues to use it.

Alderman Guinta stated I think there is general support from this Committee and from the Board that this is appropriate for the City.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded that could be a recommendation to the Board to endorse the logo as being positive for the City and then certainly she can do her own marketing.

Alderman Guinta moved to have Tom Lolicata work with Robin Comstock regarding costs associated with utilizing the new Chamber logo on City vehicles and road signs with a report back to the Committee and to recommend that the full Board endorse the logo to be used by the City and businesses.

Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Guinta stated I have new business. I am sorry because I know we are running late. There are two quick issues that I have with Ward 3 residents and it is in two separate areas. Several residents on Merrimack Street, Middle Street and Market Street have been calling me like wild fire complaining about the parking situation and the one side parking, odd/even. Essentially what they are saying to me is during the rest of the year when they utilize both sides of the street that gets cut in half every evening and is there anything we can do to alleviate that problem. That was the first new business item. What I was going to ask Tom and we don't have to necessarily discuss it now because I can certainly discuss it with him off line but if there is something that he can at least research to try to resolve that issue. The other issue was the residents where I live between Kidder and Hollis Street are asking me or making the request to start looking into making those streets one-way and trying to increase the number of parking spaces. Initially they were trying to do that in conjunction with the Bridge and Elm Street project. I know that is somewhat delayed now. I have gone back and talked to the residents and they would like to see one-way or at least a study of one-way traffic and additional parking spots regardless of the Bridge and Elm Street project. What is happening is residents are not finding suitable or a reasonable number of parking spots for their own cars let alone guests and family members.

Mr. Lolicata asked Bridge Street north, all of those side streets.

Alderman Guinta answered I am only talking about Kidder and Hollis.

Chairman Sysyn asked wasn't Kidder one-way at one time.

Alderman Guinta answered it used to be.

Mr. Lolicata stated that can be done with those two streets.

Alderman Guinta stated I don't know if I need to make a motion or if I can...

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected if the Traffic Director feels that it already is warranted you can just move to make Kidder and Hollis Streets one-way. One would be Easterly and one would be Westerly.

Alderman Guinta stated well there is going to be some design issues there once the Bridge and Elm Street project comes to fruition. I know that Alderman Gatsas already has some concerns because he has a building at the bottom of Kidder Street right near the entrance onto the bridge.

Mr. Lolicata stated I would like to look into it and give you some explanations later on. I have already seen the plans for the building.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you can just refer the issue to Mr. Lolicata and he can submit a report at the next meeting.

Alderman Guinta asked do I need to make a motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered you could ask him to do that in the form of a motion and then it would be part of the record.

Alderman Guinta moved to refer the issue of making Kidder and Hollis Streets one-way to Tom Lolicata for research and report back to the Committee.
Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn stated I have one thing and I will make it brief so we can bring it up at the next meeting. When people come to park in the garages before an event, you have that Early Bird Special. When they come to where I work in the Canal Street garage and they are just going to the post office, they are charging them \$3 and the post office doesn't validate parking tickets. People in the garages are saying well I am sorry you have to pay the \$3. If they are coming to me I will validate so they only take a ticket. We need to resolve that and I don't know how to do that. You know how we have Early Bird Parking for the events; a guy comes in to go to the post office and the guy charges him \$3 because he is going to the post office. The post office doesn't validate tickets. If he is coming to shop with me or he is going to Brian at Modern Bride...the rest of us validate parking tickets so he gets free parking. He doesn't mind paying the \$.50 or whatever for the time he is there but not the \$3. I don't know how to resolve that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated maybe we could look into establishing something so if they bring a receipt from the post office we can...

Mr. Lolicata interjected we can look into a daily charge or something. This is the first time I heard of this. I will talk to Mary about it later.

There is no further business, on motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee